GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4036
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
VERY SMALL APERTURE TERMINAL TELEPHONY SERVICES
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Israeli equipment manufacturing company has offered to provide Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) telephony services for the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said company has also proposed to set up manufacturing base in India for the South Asia Region;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the benefits of VSAT over the other telephony services provided in the rural areas;

(f) whether the Government have considered the proposals of the said company; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUI MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d) No, Sir, Only an Indian registered company, having a license from Department of Telecommunications to provide telephony services, can operate such services. Use of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology is one of the possible way of providing telephony services in rural areas. No proposal has been received from any Israeli company for manufacture of VSAT equipment. However, manufacturing of telecom equipment is a delicensed activity and a company is free to set up such unit.

(e) Satellite is the only viable proposition for providing connectivity to remote areas of the country which can not be accessed by any other terrestrial based technology.

(f) & (g) Do not arise in view of (a) to (d) above.